

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi
WATANABE

For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A HOLLOW
RACK SHAFT

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Confirmation No. To Be Assigned

Filed: Concurrently

Prior Application:

U.S. Serial No.: 09/803,560

Confirmation No.: 7306

Filed: March 9, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3726

Examiner: Marc Quemuel Jimenez

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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Signature

MARCH 11, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The above-identified U.S. patent application is a division of co-pending U.S. Patent
Application Serial No. 09/803,560, filed March 9, 2001.

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. As each item was cited in a related application, no copy of the documents is enclosed.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind.

The following items are cited in the specification of the present and the parent applications:

- (1) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-180318 (NIPPON SEIKO KK), published July 6, 1999;
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 06-246379 (TUBE FORMING:KK), published September 6, 1994;
- (3) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 58-218339 (DAIDO STEEL CO LTD), published December 19, 1983.

Each of the following documents was cited in the parent application, was cited in a related application, or was cited by the Examiner in the parent and/or a related application:

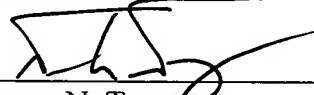
- (4) Klocke, U.S. Patent No. 1,290,578, issued January 1919;
- (5) Lemming, U.S. Patent No. 2,077,335, issued April 1937;
- (6) Lemming, U.S. Patent No. 2,077,336, issued April 1937;
- (7) Millard et al, U.S. Patent No. 2,419,724, issued April 1947;
- (8) Brueckner, U.S. Patent No. 2,804,681, issued September 1957;
- (9) Maxon et al, U.S. Patent No. 3,711,915, issued January 1973;

- (10) Clary, U.S. Patent No. 4,133,221, issued January 1979;
- (11) Mader, U.S. Patent No. 4,424,727, issued January 10, 1984;
- (12) Casler et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,466,267, issued August 1984;
- (13) Corrette, U.S. Patent No. 4,546,639, issued October 1985;
- (14) Bishop et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,571,982, issued February 1986;
- (15) Ohki, U.S. Patent No. 4,598,451, issued July 1986;
- (16) Rogers, U.S. Patent No. 4,641,406, issued February 1987;
- (17) Wallis et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,646,554, issued March 1987;
- (18) Bishop, U.S. Patent No. 5,992,205, issued November 1999;
- (19) Ozeki, U.S. Patent No. 6,289,710 B1, issued September 2001;
- (20) Yamawaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,317,979 B1, issued November 2001;
- (21) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,992 B2, issued September 2002;
- (22) Akiyama et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,502,473 B1, issued January 2003;
- (23) Shiokawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,575,009 B2, issued June 2003;
- (24) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,588,293 B2, issued July 2003;
- (25) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Published Application No. US 2001/0020328 A1,
published September 2001;
- (26) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Published Application No. US 2002/0020237 A1,
published February 2002;

- (27) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Published Application No. US 2002/0073793 A1, published June 2002;
- (28) Ozeki, U.S. Published Application No. US 2003/0097894 A1, published May 2003;
- (29) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Published Application No. US 2003/0209100 A1, published November 2003;
- (30) Tsubouchi et al, U.S. Published Application No. US 2003/0213321 A1, published November 2003;
- (31) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-278287 (FUJI KIKO CO LTD), published October 12, 1999;
- (32) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 05-345231 (SUMITOMO METAL IND LTD), published December 27, 1993;
- (33) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 60-221143 (SAKAMOTO et al), published November 1985;
- (34) British Published Application No. 2026908 A (BISHOP), published February 1980;
- (35) British Published Application No. 2056894 A (WHITNEY), published March 1981;
- (36) British Published Application No. 2061138 A (HOARE), published May 1981; and
- (37) British Published Application No. 2108026 A (ROGERS), published May 1983.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the utility divisional application, no fee is incurred. However, if it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 11, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS

Complete if Known

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Confirmation No.	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Concurrently
First Inventor	Akira TSUBOUCHI et al.
Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	18733/00045

Sheet **1** of **2**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite #	DOCUMENT NUMBER	C O D E	PATENTEE	ISSUE DATE (mm/yy)	CLASS	SUB CLASS	Filing Date if Appropriate
	(4)	1,290,578		Klocke	01/1919	72	398	
	(5)	2,077,335		Lemming	04/1937	72	330	
	(6)	2,077,336		Lemming	04/1937	72	398	
	(7)	2,419,724		Millard et al	04/1947	153	21	
	(8)	2,804,681		Brueckner	09/1957	29	893.3	
	(9)	3,711,915		Maxon et al	01/1973	29	893.3	
	(10)	4,133,221		Clary	01/1979	74	498	
	(11)	4,424,727		Mader	01/1984	76	107 R	
	(12)	4,466,267		Casler et al	08/1984	72	368	
	(13)	4,546,639		Corrette	10/1985	72	469	
	(14)	4,571,982		Bishop et al	02/1986	72	400	
	(15)	4,598,451		Ohki	07/1986	29	893.3	
	(16)	4,641,406		Rogers	02/1987	29	893.3	
	(17)	4,646,554		Wallis et al	03/1987	72	406	
	(18)	5,992,205		Bishop	11/1999	72	360	
	(19)	6,289,710	B1	Ozeki	09/2001	72	370.04	
	(20)	6,317,979	B1	Yamawaki	11/2001	29	893.34	
	(21)	6,442,992	B2	Tsubouchi et al	09/2002	72	370.21	
	(22)	6,502,473	B1	Akiyama et al	01/2003	74	89.17	
	(23)	6,575,009	B2	Shiokawa	06/2003	72	370.06	
	(24)	6,588,293	B2	Tsubouchi et al	07/2003	74	422	
	(25)	US 2001/0020328	A1	Tsubouchi et al	09/2001	29	893.34	
	(26)	US 2002/0020237	A1	Tsubouchi et al	02/2002	74	422	
	(27)	US 2002/0073793	A1	Tsubouchi et al	06/2002	74	422	
	(28)	US 2003/0097894	A1	Ozeki	05/2003	74	422	
	(29)	US 2003/0209100	A1	Tsubouchi et al	11/2003	74	422	
	(30)	US 2003/0213321	A1	Tsubouchi et al	11/2003	74	422	
Examiner Signature					Date Considered			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS				Complete if Known			
				Application Number		To Be Assigned	
				Confirmation No.		To Be Assigned	
				Filing Date		Concurrently	
				First Inventor		Akira TSUBOUCHI et al.	
				Group Art Unit		To Be Assigned	
				Examiner Name		To Be Assigned	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.		18733/00045	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials		O F F I C E	NUMBER	C O D E	PUBLICATION DATE (mm/yy)	TRANSLATION Yes No	
	(1)	JP	11-180318	A	07/1999		
	(2)	JP	06-246379	A	09/1994		
	(3)	JP	58-218339	A	12/1983		
	(31)	JP	11-278287	A	10/1999		
	(32)	JP	05-345231	A	12/1993		
	(33)	JP	60-221143	A	11/1985		
	(34)	GB	2026908	A	02/1980		
	(35)	GB	2056894	A	03/1981		
	(36)	GB	2061138	A	05/1981		
	(37)	GB	2108026	A	05/1983		
OTHER NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials		Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published					
Examiner Signature					Date Considered		

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